

3. (Twice Amended) A method of processing service requests from a client to a server system through a network, said method comprising the steps of:

forwarding a service request from the client to the server system, wherein communications between the client and server system are according to hypertext transfer protocol;

returning a session identifier from the server system to the client, the client storing the session identifier for use in subsequent communications; and

appending the session identifier to subsequent service requests from the client to the server system within a session of requests.

16. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 15 wherein:

a client directs a service request to a first server which is to provide the requested service;

the first server checks the service request for a session identifier and only services a service request having a valid session identifier, and where the service request has no valid identifier:

the first server returns a response to the client, the response redirecting the service request from the client to the authentication server;

the authentication server subjects the client to an authorization routine and issues the session identifier to be appended to the service request to the first server;

the client forwards the service request appended with the session identifier to the first server; and

the first server recognizes the session identifier and services the service request to the client; and

the client appends the session identifier to subsequent service requests to the server system and is serviced without further authorization.

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31. (Three Times Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein at least one service request comprises a request for a document which has been purchased by a user, and wherein the session identifier comprises an authorization identifier, the method further comprising:

returning the requested document if the authorization identifier indicates that the user is authorized to access the document.

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35. (Twice Amended) An information system on a network, comprising:
means for receiving service requests from clients and for determining whether a service request includes a session identifier, wherein communications to and from the clients are according to hypertext transfer protocol;
means for providing the session identifier in response to an initial service request in a session of requests;
means for servicing subsequent service requests within the session of requests from a client, the subsequent service requests including the session identifier; and
means for storing, at the client, the session identifier for use in each communication associated with the document request.

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50. (Amended) The method of Claim 3 further comprising:

returning a response to the client, the response redirecting an initial service request to an authentication server, the authentication server providing the session identifier.

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79. (Amended) A method of processing service requests from a client to a server system through a network, said method comprising the steps of:
forwarding a service request from the client to the server system, wherein communications between the client and server system are according to hypertext transfer protocol;

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returning a session identifier from the server system to the client, the client storing the session identifier for use in subsequent communications; and appending as part of a path name in a uniform resource locator the session identifier to subsequent service requests from the client to the server system within a session of requests.

81. (Amended) The method of Claim 79 further comprising:

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returning a response to the client, the response containing a locator for an authentication server, the response redirecting the first service request to the authentication server, the authentication server providing the session identifier.

Please add new Claims 108-111.

108. (New) The method of Claim 3, wherein a service request comprises a request to purchase a product.

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109. (New) The method of Claim 108, wherein the product is transmitted over the network.

110. (New) The method of Claim 109, wherein the product is a newspaper/newsletter article.

111. (New) The method of Claim 108, wherein the product is a durable product.

REMARKS

Before this Amendment, Claims 3, 5-26, 31-43, 49-63, 67-93 and 96-107 were pending in the Application. Claims 3, 35, and 79 were independent. All claims have been rejected, except for Claims 99 and 107, both of which use the term "cookie." However, as discussed with Examiner Winder in a telephone interview on April 17, 2001, the "cookie" limitations of Claims 99 and 107 were not explicitly stated in the earliest application to which priority is claimed.